

26 July 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, Bureau of Personnel
Investigations
U. S. Civil Service Commission

FROM: Robert W. Gambino
Chairman

SUBJECT: Elimination of Loyalty Questions from
Form (SF) 86

1. It has come to our attention that the Civil Service Commissioners, several months ago, announced their unanimous decision to eliminate questions 21 and 22 from the (SF) 86 (security investigation data for sensitive positions). It is further understood that shortly thereafter that decision was implemented by the preparation of instructions to applicants not to answer the two questions.

2. This matter was considered by a committee of this organization in January 1978 at which time a consensus was reached that members of the Intelligence Community which utilized their own personnel history statements would not change same to conform with the above recommendation. Other members of the Intelligence Community which utilize the (SF) 86 recommended as an alternative that the loyalty questions concerned would be asked of all applicants at a pre-employment security interview.

3. It is understood that no formal decision has been made by the Civil Service Commission to implement the recommendations by reprinting the (SF) 86 eliminating the two questions under consideration. We understand, in this connection that the Civil Service Commission is still waiting for the response of other government agencies regarding the proposal.

4. In the interim, we further understand that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has adopted a new FBI Personnel Status and Security Questionnaire which contains a different version of the two loyalty questions under consideration. We believe that the Civil Service Commission should consider the alternative language adopted by the FBI.

5. We in the intelligence community view this matter quite seriously and feel that the removal of these questions from the (SF) 86 form will eventually impact adversely on all government security programs. We, therefore, recommend that you conduct a new review of the entire question, if you believe this to be necessary. If such a review is conducted, we also urge that all Agencies have an opportunity to participate.

6. We would be happy to discuss our position in more detail with you or with anyone you may designate at your convenience. In this connection, please feel free to contact me [redacted] Executive Secretary,

[redacted]
Robert W. Gambino
Chairman

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